

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-11 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OFA-01 DLOS-04 OMB-01 EB-07

COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /082 W

----- 062590

O R 121750Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5947

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK 0467

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: VIEWS OF BRITISH EMBASSY

REF: REYKJAVIK 0061 (DTG 121423Z JAN 76)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH DCM TODAY, EMB DCM WAS TOLD
BRITISH HAVE SOME REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IF BREAK IN GOI-UK
RELATIONS COMES, IT CAN BE HELD TO MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS.
WHETHER REST OF STAFF WOULD REMAIN IN PLACE AS "CONSULAR
REPRESENTATION" OR AS PART OF PROTECTING POWER'S EMBASSY NOT YET
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CLEAR. BRITISH AMBASSADOR ALSO ACCREDITED AS CONSUL GENERAL BUT

HE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN LEAVING DCM IN CHARGE.

2. BRITISH HOPE JANUARY 14 ARRIVAL OF NATO SECGEN LUNS WILL COOL SITUATION FOR TIME BEING AND PROVIDE GOI WITH ADDITIONAL EXCUSE FOR DELAY IN BREAK AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING.

3. BRITISH HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF "STANDSTILL AGREEMENT" SIMILAR TO THAT OF 1973 UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD WITHDRAW PROTECTION VESSELS ON TACIT UNDERSTANDING ICELANDERS WOULD NOT HARASS TRAWLERS. HOWEVER, UK BELIEVES MINJUSTICE OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN STILL OPPOSED TO ANY SUBSTANTIVE TALKS SO THAT FOR TIME BEING STANDSTILL AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE NO MEANING.

4. BRITISH WOULD WELCOME MEDIATION BUT RECOGNIZE IT UNACCEPTABLE TO GOI. HOWEVER, THEY HOPE LUNS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY SOME ROLE IN GETTING TWO PARTIES TO NEGOTIATING TABLE IN WHICH CASE BRITISH "WOULD HAVE ALL SORTS OF INTERESTING THINGS" TO PROPOSE TO GOI.

5. ON WHOLE, BRITISH ARE PESSIMISTIC, BELIEVING ELEMENTS IN GOI DELIBERATELY WANT SITUATION TO DETERIORATE FURTHER AND LITTLE CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT IT.

IRVING

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